

21 March, 2001

RAJYA SABHA

Attack on Restaurants and Card Galleries on Valentine's Day

2751. SHRI C. APOK JAMIR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain fundamentalists belonging to a political party ransacked restaurants and card galleries in some parts of Delhi, Lucknow, Kanpur and Varanasi in U.P., Raipur in Chhattisgarh, Nasik in Maharashtra over the Valentine's Day celebrations;

(b) whether this type of action on the part of that group tantamount to attack on liberty; and

(c) what necessary steps Government propose to take so that such ugly incidents do not recur in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) As per the available information, there were protests by certain organisations in Delhi, Mumbai, Pune, Bareilly, Lucknow and Kanpur against Valentine's Day celebrations.

(b) and (c) 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and as such, registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Central Government has, from time to time, been writing to the State Government stressing upon them the need to take preventive, punitive and rehabilitative measures in connection with crimes.

Attacks against minorities

2752. SHRI C. APOK JAMIR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cases of attacks against minorities, particularly Christians, in various parts of the country have risen alarmingly;